

Ideas for Greener Parties

- **Invitations:** For eco-friendly alternatives to paper invitations, consider creating and sending your party invitations via email. (Conduct an online search for “free online invitations” or check out sites such as Evite, PurpleTrail or American Greetings.) Not only do online invitations save resources, they also save time and money. If you still prefer to send out paper invitations, however, seek out invitations made from recycled paper.
- **Food:** When buying food for your party, consider using organic and local foods as much as possible, or seek out local bakeries/restaurants that use local ingredients. It's a great way to support local, family-owned businesses, and an easy way to use products that didn't have to travel around the world to reach your plate.
Ideas:
For pizzas and sandwiches:
 - “The Deli” www.thedeliqc.com # 480-279-3546
The Deli uses local and organic ingredients in their pizzas.For cakes and cookies:
 - “In Pockets” (Chandler) www.inpockets.com #480-726-2253
In Pockets allow customers to request organic or vegan cakes.
- **Tableware:** Seek out and use reusable plates, cups, utensils, and tablecloths, if possible.
Ideas: Ikea has inexpensive, reusable tableware items that can be used for any party. Keep in mind- not everything you use needs to be in the designated party theme or color. Consider using a few items related to the party theme or color and having the rest be generic, reusable items. This will also save money!
- **Party favors:** Many items found in traditional goodie bags usually end up in the trash and are expensive for what you get. Consider giving coupons or gift certificates or inexpensive, non-disposable, creative party favors instead.
- Ideas:
 - Buy a batch of coupons from a local ice cream shop (or movie theater, etc.) for free ice cream or a free movie and add it to the reusable party cup provided for an easy-to-make party favor that both children and parents will appreciate!
 - Search Etsy.com (online website that features handmade items for sale) or visit a local farmers' market for unique party favor items or ideas. It's also a great way to support individual vendors instead of large corporations.
- **Waste:** Try to reduce the amount of trash / waste left from your party by buying only what you need, and using recyclable or reusable materials as much as possible.

If you end up choosing four or more of the above suggestions, let us know and you may be eligible for a \$5 “green discount”!